

Date: Fri, 9 Sep 94 04:30:30 PDT  
From: Ham-Equip Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-equip@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Ham-Equip-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Ham-Equip@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Ham-Equip Digest V94 #321  
To: Ham-Equip

Ham-Equip Digest                      Fri, 9 Sep 94                      Volume 94 : Issue 321

Today's Topics:

50 mile simplex suggestions  
Corsair2 qrg readout problem  
FS: 2 meter amp.  
FT-411E  
Radio Shack HTX-202--a good choice?  
Range of 2 meter HT  
tm-251a mods or crossband???

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Equip@UCSD.Edu>

Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Equip-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>

Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Equip Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-equip".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

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Date: 8 Sep 1994 09:39:08 -0400  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!udel!news.sprintlink.net!  
redstone.interpath.net!mercury.interpath.net!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: 50 mile simplex suggestions  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

In article <34n01j\$3kg@news.duke.edu>,

Ronald Thomas <thomasr@acpub.duke.edu> wrote:

> If people often jump in for this reason, they need to really  
> understand the limits of the bands available to them under the no-code  
> license, if that's their starting point. I'd hate to see people leave  
> the hobby without upgrading because they got discouraged at not being  
> able to immediately DX.

Well, I want to do other things than communicate with this particular person  
I mentioned at first. I am just going to start with the no-code but as soon

as I can I want to get the 5wpm CW as well so I can do more.

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Date: Thu, 8 Sep 1994 15:33:41 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!emory!cs.utk.edu!stc06.CTD.ORN.L.GOV!rsg1.er.usgs.gov!  
junger@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Corsair2 qrg readout problem  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

In article <9409081305.AA02998@dacws2>,  
Martin <martin%dacws2%dac.isei.jrc.it@cen.jrc.it> wrote:

>  
>My Corsair2 frequency display seems to be crazy,  
>the different diode elements of the display show different  
>light intensities.

I had a similar problem with one digit on my frequency display and called TenTec tech support. They suggested that I open up my Corsair II and remove the frequency display board and clean the contacts where it plugs into the PC board it is mounted on. It wasn't too hard to do and seems to have cured my problems at least for the time.

Good luck and 73 - John, W3G0I

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Date: 8 Sep 94 08:08:18 -0500  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!spool.mu.edu!news.nd.edu!  
bsuvc.bsu.edu!00wmsmith@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: FS: 2 meter amp.  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

I have an rfconcepts model 2-23 2 meter amp for sale. Excellent condition. 2 to 5 watts in 30 watts out. It also has a built-in preamp. This is an 12v mobile unit.

Asking \$90.

Reply to 00wmsmith@bsuvc.bsu.edu

Bill Smith  
N9MBB

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Date: 7 Sep 94 23:29:17 -0500



redstone.interpath.net!mercury.interpath.net!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Range of 2 meter HT  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

In article <CvsJDC.5sp@utnetw.utoledo.edu>,  
<pouelle@uoft02.utoledo.edu> wrote:  
>

>The other option is 2m SSB with outdoor antenna. Might be rough in your  
>apartment. (Have you asked to put up an antenna? just a thought)

I live in a second story apartment and have a good balcony so I have thought  
of getting a small portable yagi. I doubt I could put anything permanent up.

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Date: Thu, 8 Sep 94 14:35:46 -0500  
From: news.delphi.com!usenet@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: tm-251a mods or crossband???  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

I have a tm-251a mobile rig and was checking out the 440  
receive, and thought, does this thing do crossband repeat??

any info on crossband or other mods is wanted

thanks

pete, n1qdg

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Date: (null)  
From: (null)

That being said, the reason I am trying to figure this all out is that we  
would rather not waste too much money on equipment which won't do the job we  
want. A good 2m HT is a good investment anyway but there is no point in  
putting a lot of money in other 2m equipment if it won't do what I want. So,  
using just the privileges available with a Technician license, what would  
people recommend to communicate without repeaters at a distance of 50 or 60  
miles? If I upgraded to Novice as well (adding element 1A) so that I can  
get 10 meter etc. what would be the best band to use? Keep in mind that  
the antenna must be portable (fit on a balcony and easily taken down and  
stored). I also don't have a lot of money to invest.

I do appreciate all the comments and suggestions. I'm learning alot which is  
of course one of the things that makes ham radio so much fun!

thanks,  
miker@msai.com or miker@mercury.interpath.net

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Date: Thu, 8 Sep 1994 18:29:47 GMT  
From: newsgate.melpar.esys.com!melpar!phb@uunet.uu.net  
To: ham-equip@ucsd.edu

References <34n01j\$3kg@news.duke.edu>, <34n45s\$825@mercury.interpath.net>,  
<hamilton.779042611@BIX.com>  
Subject : Re: 50 mile simplex suggestions

About a year ago, I ran a bunch of tests with friends and via random QSOs on 2-meter FM. Using a Yaesu FT-2400 (50 watts) and a homebrew 5/8 ground plane in the attic (approx. 18' AGL to the attic floor) I was able to consistently work other 50-watt stations out to around 50 miles; most were using either Isopoles or some model of commercially-available vertical (Cushcraft Ringo Ranger, etc.).

Using the same setup, I made 44 FM simplex QSOs in 6 grid squares during the September VHF QSO party. For the January contest I switched to a vertically-polarized, 4-element yagi at 15' and had 65 QSOs in 8 grid squares.

For the record, my location is in northern VA, about 45 miles west of DC. Many of the 40-50 miles QSOs were to places like Silver Spring, Bethesda, etc.

After switching to SSB, I developed a set of graphs based on VHF propagation info from the old VHF Manual, plus did a lot of "station capability" calculations. Since there are several factors involved which are all important (power, receiver sensitivity, bandwidth, antenna gain & height, etc.) I'd be glad to draft a short tutorial and make it available to anyone who's interested. It will probably require a SASE, since I can't very well e-mail the graphs.

The long and short of it is that the first 75 miles of the path loss curve is quite steep; in other words, large changes are necessary for small distance improvements. Between 100 and 250 miles the curve flattens dramatically, which means that only small additional improvements are necessary to extend the range considerably. So, it takes a bit of doing to develop a decent basic capability, but after that incremental upgrades can make a big difference.

BTW, I tried up to 80 watts FM and up to a 10-element yagi

First, I think I would assume that a 2M HT is not going to give you usable, reliable communication over a 50 mile distance (unless, as has been pointed out, your particular geography is quite unusual). So if you're going to get something working at all on 2m, you'll need something more like a 50W mobile unit powered off a 12V supply (e.g., one of the Astrons), feeding a beam. Fortunately, 2M antennas do not have to be all that large. Browsing the Ham Radio Outlet catalog, I see, e.g., that a 4 element Cushcraft 124WB yagi (chosen at random, not as a particular recommendation) is only 3 lbs, and only 4 ft long, surely within your requirements.

This still might or might not work. You'd probably just have to try it. The comments that 2M is more-or-less line-of-sight are correct, but as with many things, it can be more complicated than that. There's a lot of scatter also that may give you a path even if line-of-sight isn't possible.

Anyway, this brings me to my second suggestion: see if you can find some local hams near you and your friend who can try the path for you with equipment that seems roughly similar to what you'd consider buying. This shouldn't be hard. EVERYONE these days seems to have 2M gear. If you don't know any local hams, call the ARRL and ask for a list of local clubs; go and meet people there. At most club meetings, you're invited to stand up and give any announcements you like and so certainly, you could explain what you're trying to do and ask for some help. Actually, I suppose you might even find out by experimentation this way that 2M HT's WILL work in your location! Who knows? But you should be able to get some free help to try things out, this way.

Other random comments: Don't worry about clogging a repeater with idle chatter. Unless the hams in your area are a whole lot different than everywhere else in the world, that's most of what you'll hear on most repeaters most of the time anyway. Your chatter can't be that much more idle than everyone else's, I'd guess. :-) Just be sensitive (as you should be anyway) to give other folks a chance to get in and to stay off the repeater if you hear a net come on (unless you're participating) or if there is some priority traffic.

Regardless of whether a 2M HT is going to make the 50 mi path to another HT, you may want one anyway. Most hams can't resist these "toys". They're a lot of fun and that's a lot of what a hobby should be about. So worst case might be that you each buy the HT's, you discover you do have to go via the repeater (okay, you can do that) but you decide (especially after getting them) that they're a lot of fun for talking with a lot of other hams also.

Regards,

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End of Ham-Equip Digest V94 #321

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